

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

#300

JOHN HARRY "JACK" McCARRON

USS *ARIZONA*, SURVIVOR

INTERVIEWED ON

DECEMBER 6, 1998

BY DANIEL MARTINEZ

TRANSCRIBED BY:

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**USS *ARIZONA* MEMORIAL
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

Daniel Martinez (DM): The following oral history interview was conducted by Daniel Martinez, historian for the National Park Service at the USS *Arizona* Memorial. The taping was done at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 8, 1998, at approximately 1:30. The person being interviewed is John [*Harry*] McCarron, also known as Jack, who was aboard the USS *Arizona* on December 7, 1941. For the record, Jack, would you please state your full name?

John Harry McCarron (JM): The “H” too? Harry?

DM: Well, we’ll get to that.

JM: John H. McCarron.

DM: And what does that “H” stand for?

JM: Harry. (Laughs)

DM: You don’t sound happy about that.

JM: I don’t like Harry.

DM: Who were you named after? Where’d you get the name? Was that an uncle, or...?

JM: No, I think it was a friend of the family, a very good friend of the family.

DM: Okay, well.

JM: Yeah.

DM: And you were born where?

JM: In Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

DM: On what fateful day?

JM: On eleven, March, 1919.

DM: So you're—not Bostonian, but...

JM: Yeah, I am.

DM: Oh, you're Boston, okay.

(Laughter)

DM: All right, and very proud of that.

JM: Well, yeah. The only place you can say tonic that is in a twenty-mile radius of Boston, and that's for Coke, pop.

DM: Is that right? Is that what you call it?

JM: Did you know that?

DM: No. Didn't know that at all. Now, you considered then Boston your hometown in 1941?

JM: No, I considered Lynn my hometown.

DM: Lynn your hometown?

JM: That's where I joined the navy, was in Lynn.

DM: Okay. Now how many children were there in your family?

JM: Five.

DM: And where were you in all of that?

JM: I was the oldest.

DM: You were the—well, that's a—I'm the oldest in my family.

JM: Yeah.

DM: That has its own weight.

JM: I should clarify that because I got two half-sisters and half-brother and one sister, but I always considered them—I don't like that half jazz.

DM: You consider them brothers and sisters.

JM: Sure.

DM: What did your dad do for a living?

JM: My dad?

DM: Mm-hmm.

JM: He was a sailor.

DM: He was a sailor?

JM: Right.

DM: What kind of sailor was he?

JM: Machinist's Mate.

DM: He was in the navy.

JM: Yes.

DM: Did he sail in World War I?

JM: Yes.

DM: And your mom—were your mom and dad together when you grew up?

JM: Oh, my dad died when I was three years old.

DM: Oh, he passed away.

JM: Yeah. And my mother got married again when I was ten.

DM: Okay.

JM: Yeah.

DM: So you have very vague recollections of your father.

JM: You know when I lost the only picture I got—that was the seventh.

DM: How did you lose that picture?

JM: It went down with the ship. So...

DM: Yeah. Did your father die in service of his country?

JM: Yeah, I believe so, yeah. He was in the navy.

DM: Yeah. So he was lost at sea?

JM: His was an accident, no. It was an accident, really, that he, you know.

DM: And when you—you went to grammar school there in Lynn?

JM: I went to parochial school in Lynn.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: For three years. And, 'cause we were a poor Irish family, I went to about—and then we moved around a lot.

DM: Right.

JM: Even cold water flats, you know.

DM: What's cold water flats?

JM: Huh?

DM: What was cold water flats? Oh, I know. You mean the cold-water...

JM: A cold water flat? That means you don't have any hot water.

DM: Hot water.

JM: And if you want lights, you turn on the gas, or you light the lantern, you know.

DM: So your family had a rough time during the depression.

JM: Yes, right. Very, well, until my mother got married...

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: ...again, yeah, to my stepdad, he was in the restaurant business. So we were wealthy, but we...

(Taping stops, then resumes)

JM: No, it's not good. Went to the, you know, went to the show and I saw the battleships on—I knew I was going in the navy when I was as early as ten or twelve.

DM: Okay. Let's start over again. So your family, as many families did, went through a very rough time during the depression.

JM: That's right.

DM: And in fact you had to live in what they termed cold water flats. And then your mother remarried and your stepfather at that time was in the restaurant business and that way you had enough food for the family.

JM: Well, he had—yeah. He owned—well, I'm not going to go into various aspects of things in that.

DM: Right.

JM: Because I don't think it needs talking about.

DM: All right.

JM: But we—at one time we had quite a bit of money and then after that, why, he lost a couple of restaurants due to having a bad partner and things like that.

DM: Kind of things that happen sometimes today.

JM: Yes, right.

DM: How did you, when you got—did you go to high school and...

JM: Yeah, I went to the tenth grade.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And my stepdad was a wonderful man, but he didn't believe —when you're big enough to work, you're old enough, you know. So I was working from the time I was fourteen, soda jerk and I worked in a gas station and then I worked for NEL-NICK Motors in Lynn. I was greasing new Fords and Lincoln Zephyrs and I figured—I joined the reserves when I was seventeen. It was tough to get in the navy then.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: So I figured that I didn't want to be an automobile mechanic. I knew when I was twelve I wanted to go in the navy, but it was very difficult to get in the navy at that time.

DM: Right.

JM: But I joined the reserves and then when I was eighteen, why, I got in the regular navy.

DM: Now what prompted you to join the navy? I mean...

JM: I saw the battleships on Pathe News and I can still see 'em.

DM: Is that right?

JM: Yeah.

DM: It was the majesty of those ships and saying, "Oh, I'd like to be on one."

JM: I said, "One day, I'm going to be on that one." You know.

DM: And it really happened.

JM: And it really happened.

DM: So you enlisted in what year?

JM: Nineteen thirty-seven.

DM: And from the enlistment, you enlisted in Lynn?

JM: Right.

DM: And from there, where did they send you?

JM: I went to Newport, Rhode Island, through training in Newport, Rhode Island.

DM: And that's where your boot training was?

JM: Right.

DM: What was that like?

JM: It was great. I mean, I thought it was.

DM: So you were, you thought of the navy as the future for you, Jack, is that accurate?

JM: What?

DM: You saw the navy as a good future for you?

JM: I think it's a good future for anybody, but it's difficult now, the way that they're handling things, that is the ships are being sent—they're not on demand, but sometimes when they go out, you have to take men that have just come back from deployment and put 'em on ships that are going back out there, which is, you know, it's not good.

DM: Right.

JM: And I don't think they're going to keep many men in the service that way.

DM: That way.

JM: That way.

DM: In Newport, after you were done with boot camp and they either send you to sea school or they send you...

JM: Yeah, I had a—we had a very good friend in the navy who was also one thing that I really liked. I was a boy scout and, yeah, the scoutmaster was a doctor.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I thought that if I could be a pharmacist's mate, that, you know, would be impressive. But I could've gone to Pharmacist's Mate School when I was in training, but Charlie Cruz was the chief turret captain, company commander.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And he said, "Mack, you don't—," I'm not going to say what he said you don't want to be. But...

DM: He talked you out of it.

JM: He said, "Go out to the fleet and see what you'd like," and he says, "and then see what you want to do."

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: So I...

DM: So you did.

JM: So I did.

DM: So what was your first ship assignment?

JM: The *Arizona*, but I went out to—I went to Norfolk after, that December, and was on the [*USS*] Henderson, but I was not part of ship's company.

DM: Right, you were on transport.

JM: Yeah, it was transport. And we finally got around, went through the canal and—pardon me—we got out to Long Beach, was in March.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: Thirty-eight.

DM: Right.

JM: And that's when I went aboard the *Arizona*, on seven March, '38.

DM: And where was that at, San Pedro?

JM: Yeah, well, Long Beach.

DM: Long Beach area.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Paint me a picture of your first impression of the *Arizona*.

JM: Paint you a picture.

DM: Yeah.

JM: With good words. I wish I was an author, learn to use the right words. Well, of course we took our sea bag and hammock, you know.

DM: Right.

JM: And I remember going, in my mind's eye, I can go out to the ship and—yeah, paint you a picture.

DM: What'd she look like to you?

JM: She looked great.

DM: Powerful?

JM: I wouldn't put it powerful. It wasn't, you know, it was like going home.

DM: And yet it was just becoming your home?

JM: That's right.

DM: So the *Arizona* is a rather large ship.

JM: Yeah.

DM: In those days.

JM: At that day, you know, I put in thirty-two years...

DM: Right.

JM: ...and I've been on carriers and destroyers and...

DM: Bigger ships.

JM: ...cruisers.

DM: But the *Arizona* was kind of famous. It had been a movie star with the Cagney movie, "*Here Comes the Navy*". And I don't know if you saw that movie.

JM: Oh yeah, I saw the movie.

DM: So you saw that movie before you went in?

JM: Yeah, probably did. I can't remember. I know I saw it, you know.

DM: Yeah. As you go aboard the *Arizona*, and you go up that gangway and you have your...

JM: They lined us up and they said, so many went here, so many went there. I forgot how many there was. It was probably twenty or thirty of us that went on to the ship.

DM: Right. And what division...

JM: I was assigned to the Sixth Division.

DM: Sixth Division.

JM: Yeah.

DM: And was that going to be a deck crew or...

JM: Right.

DM: Right.

JM: That was AA battery, the five-inch twenty-five.

DM: And what battery were you assigned to?

JM: The five-inch twenty-five, yeah.

DM: Yeah. But I mean there's a series of those batteries. Where was that located on the ship?

JM: It was on the port side.

DM: Okay.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Did you sleep in a hammock then?

JM: I slept in a hammock. I slept in a hammock over the five-inch, fifty-one caliber.

DM: Okay. So you were in the 01 deck then?

JM: No, I was up on the casemates.

DM: Oh, the casemates.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Okay. What was...

JM: I slept in a hammock for three years until I made [Gunner's Mate] Third Class.

DM: What's it like sleeping in a hammock?

JM: I slept in a hammock through training. (Laughs) I...

DM: There's a certain hang to it, isn't there? I mean...

JM: I don't know. You know, it was...

DM: You ever fall out of your hammock?

JM: No, I never did. No.

DM: Was it comfortable?

JM: I think so. Yeah. I was, yeah. It was great to get a cot, though, with a mattress. Because you had to make up your hammock every morning.

DM: Right.

JM: You put seven half hitches and put it in the hammock netting and then when you had a cot, you know, you had a spot in the casemate where you put your cot and mattress. You had to make it every morning and put it in the bag and put it in the hammock netting too.

DM: Right. So you had to get up early, is what you're telling me, because they had to clear the spaces pretty much, right.

JM: We got up early, yeah.

DM: Yeah. What time did the *Arizona* come alive every morning?

JM: Let's see, reveille was at, if I jog my brain here, I guess five or 5:30.

DM: Okay.

JM: We had reveille.

DM: Then the chow.

JM: And then they bring in a big cup of coffee. I mean, a big jug of coffee.

DM: Right.

JM: And you had those white mugs and everyone would have a half a cup of coffee before we went out and scrubbed down the deck.

DM: Was that a daily thing, scrubbing down the deck?

JM: Daily, right.

DM: Did that include holystoning, or was that...

JM: No, you did that once a week or at least once a week, maybe every two weeks. I don't know.

DM: How did you scrub down the deck? What was the process of that?

JM: Just with a scrub brush and, you know, the salt water...

DM: Right.

JM: ...hose. And there was only—I might add that at that time, we were really on demand, you know. In '38, aboard ship, you had, I think there was three men of us, three were working on the outside of the casemates and they had about six men on the boat deck.

DM: Right.

JM: And of course when they start increasing there and it went from, you had about ten men...

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: ...and they had thirty of us plus up on the boat deck. But two or three of us used to do all the work.

DM: That's a lot of work.

JM: At that time, you worked until it was completed.

DM: Right.

JM: You know what I mean?

DM: Yes.

JM: If you started it—if they had to rig a light to finish it, they rigged a light.

DM: It'd take that long to do all that?

JM: Well, sometimes. I mean, if you were painting or stuff like that.

DM: Right, oh, painting.

JM: Yeah, right.

DM: What was your assignment aboard ship?

JM: I was just a seaman, I made seaman and my assignment, I worked on the boat deck.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I worked out on the galley deck and then I went gun striking.

DM: Okay.

JM: Yeah. And of course that was a happy day, you know, to go gun striking.

DM: Yeah. Now, that didn't happen right away. You eventually evolved into those positions?

JM: Well, I went gun striking after about a year.

DM: Right.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Now, when the *Arizona* went out for fleet maneuvers in 1940, later, I guess in '41, when you were going to stay in Hawaii for an extended stay. Tensions in the Pacific are growing. Were you aware as a sailor that the situation in the Pacific was deteriorating?

JM: We didn't—I think we all realized it, but it didn't mean too much, you know. And actually, when I went home, you know...

DM: On leave?

JM: ...in September of '41.

DM: Right.

JM: And got married. And married my childhood sweetheart. We're still married.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And where am I?

DM: You got married in the September of '41.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Did you bring her out?

JM: Yes. We were back home. You know, they said, we'll be going to war, and I says, "We'll be going to war with Japan before Germany."

That's the feeling that was aboard ship.

DM: Who'd you share that with?

JM: Family and friends, you know, at that time.

DM: Well, it was a pretty accurate prediction?

JM: Yeah. I mean, that was the feeling that was predominant in the fleet, I would say, at that time.

DM: There was no question what the adversary might be if a war broke out.

JM: Well, that was the feeling, that we'd be at war with Japan before, you know, going at war with Germany.

DM: Right. Now, you brought your bride out with you?

JM: Yes.

DM: And...

JM: And if she hadn't had \$300, 'cause I spent all my money back there...

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: ...we would've never got out to the West Coast.

DM: And so she got as far as San Pedro?

JM: Long Beach.

DM: Okay.

JM: And we got our apartment.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: Thirty-five dollars a month with a garage.

DM: Do you remember what street that was on?

JM: (Mumbles) I know it.

DM: Not Golden Avenue?

JM: I can't grab it out of my head.

DM: Well, if you think of it. That's okay.

JM: Yeah.

DM: And then you set up house?

JM: Yeah.

DM: And you...

JM: And for about two weeks...

DM: And then what happened?

JM: And then I went out to Pearl. I got out there just shortly before Thanksgiving. You know, we were scheduled to go back that Monday morning...

DM: Right.

JM: ...the eighth. And...

DM: Were you headed back to San Pedro or Bremerton?

JM: Who?

DM: The *Arizona*, on the eighth. Where were you guys going?

JM: No, we were just going back to the West Coast.

DM: Yeah. So you didn't bring your bride to Hawaii?

JM: No, no. She was in Long Beach.

DM: Okay. Some of the sailors did, like [*Vincent James*] "Jim" Vlach [*Jr.*], who brought his...

JM: Yeah, right.

DM: But others...

JM: Yeah, right. He was, his wife was out there.

DM: Right.

JM: At that time, yeah.

DM: She came out late.

JM: He was [*Yeoman*] First Class. He had been married for, I guess, a while.

DM: Yeah.

JM: You know, that was, then you couldn't get married unless you were second class.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: Of course I didn't—I got married because I went back home.

DM: And your rate at the time was?

JM: Second class gunner's mate.

DM: Okay. Second Class Gunner's Mate.

JM: Mm-hmm.

DM: Did you enjoy that work, being a gunner's mate?

JM: Yes. Yeah.

DM: How good was your crew? Pretty good?

JM: Very good, right.

DM: Now, the *Arizona* had won a number of efficiency awards.

JM: Yeah.

DM: And that crew was considered a very solid crew and a veteran crew. Would that be your assessment of the crew of the *Arizona* in 1940?

JM: Very definitely. Yeah, sure.

DM: And the old man, how was he?

JM: Great. Yeah. I mean, you know, I think the feeling of the navy then is different than what came later.

DM: Yeah.

JM: I mean, you lived so close together...

DM: Right.

JM: ...you know, you lived closer than a family, 'cause like you said, we ate family style.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And you slept in the same casemate with the same people and you were closer than brothers, really, or as close as brothers.

DM: You got along really well?

JM: Oh yeah. You had your disagreements with maybe some that you didn't talk to too much, you know, but like any family. But it was a really—that's what missing, I think, in the navy or the military today, 'cause everything is—even the families are fractured.

DM: Right.

JM: The DTV...

DM: Okay, the MTV [Music Television] generation?

JM: Yeah. They should get together and have their meals together.

DM: You remember the last time the *Arizona* departed the West Coast?

JM: The what?

DM: The last time, your last time the *Arizona* left the West Coast, you remember that? When you cruised out to Hawaii?

JM: Not really. I think we left from Bremerton, Washington.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: I think it was in '41.

DM: Yeah.

JM: Yeah. Sure.

DM: Came out there and then there was a lot of fleet maneuvers going on out there.

JM: Yeah.

DM: And you guys were honing your skills. Do you remember the collision that took place between you and the *Oklahoma*?

JM: No. (Laughs)

DM: Okay.

JM: When?

DM: There was a collision in '41, at night, that took place.

JM: Do you know the...

DM: The date?

JM: Yeah.

DM: I'm thinking October. And...

JM: See, I was back—I was on leave. I got married October the nineteenth.

DM: Okay. Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

DM: So you didn't know about that or witness it?

JM: No.

DM: Yeah, there was a...

JM: I didn't even know about it 'til right now!

DM: Yeah, there was a collision at sea between the two ships.

JM: Really?

DM: And the *Oklahoma* veered away at the last moment. It would've crashed right into the officers' country in the quarterdeck of the *Arizona*.

JM: I never knew that.

DM: There was some damage. The *Arizona* actually had slight repair done and the *Oklahoma* was damaged as well.

JM: I never knew that.

DM: Oh, I'll send you some stuff on it. There's a whole story about that.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Pretty exciting moment, because they were running darkened ship because of...

JM: Right, okay.

DM: ...the way things were going.

JM: Yeah, yeah.

DM: It wasn't so much...

JM: That's understandable because the destroyers running were in that first raid of Kiska, you know, when they...

DM: Right.

JM: ...were running around without radar and ridiculous.
(Laughs)

DM: Yeah. Scary stuff. I'm going to take you up to the events leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor. The *Arizona* came in on Friday, December 5 to moor herself along Battleship Row. Do you remember? Were you deckhand, help tie it up to the mooring?

JM: No, I was a Second Class Gunner's Mate.

DM: So you didn't do any of that.

JM: No. It wasn't Friday. It was Saturday I thought we came in.

DM: It's Friday the fifth.

JM: Yeah. Come in at night then, late.

DM: Yeah.

JM: Because we still had ammunition in our ready service lockers, which normally we used to stow...

DM: Right.

JM: ...in the magazines when we came in.

DM: So do you remember that tie-up procedure along the mooring...

JM: Along the buoy?

DM: Yeah.

JM: Not really.

DM: Okay.

JM: I must say, you know...

DM: Did you have liberty on Saturday night, December 6?

JM: No.

DM: Stayed aboard ship?

JM: I had the duty. Yeah.

DM: And would that mean you were standing watch?

JM: No, I didn't have a watch. I didn't have any kind of duties in that respect.

DM: Okay. Well, what was your duty? When you say you had the duty, what were you doing?

JM: To make sure that the battery that I was supervising, which was—I had the starboard five-inch battery.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: Mounts One, Three, Five and Seven.

DM: Okay.

JM: You know, 'cause I had seamen and third class that worked for me in that respect.

DM: Right.

JM: To take care of the mounts.

DM: And were you guys on a...

JM: Just make sure they were covered and everything was squared away, as it should be.

DM: Were you guys on a special condition readiness level?

JM: At that time?

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: Not that I know, but what they used to do was, especially when they sound movie call, then they'd sound the AA battery.

DM: Okay.

JM: And they call away the AA battery. You probably was told that! (Laughs)

DM: Yeah.

JM: And it used to—it didn't go over too well, but you know, it was good—I'm a firm believer in training.

DM: Right.

JM: I think that's a thing you don't—you do things automatically that you're supposed to do and that you're responsible for.

DM: Now, I know that they had a movie aboard ship that night. Did you go to the movie at all?

JM: Hmm. Saturday night?

DM: Yeah.

JM: I don't remember going to the movie.

DM: Okay. What time did you retire that night? Do you...

JM: Oh, probably nine o'clock. Yeah.

DM: Okay. Now this takes us to December 7, 1941, that fateful Sunday.

JM: Okay.

DM: What time did you rise on Sunday, December 7?

JM: What time did I get up?

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: I would say—I don't know—5:30. I knew that I had shore patrol.

DM: Okay.

JM: So I had to get washed and dressed and, you know, go take a shower.

DM: Right. Got all cleaned up. Did you eat breakfast?

JM: Right, yeah.

DM: And when you have shore patrol that meant you were going down to...

JM: I was going to...

DM: ...Honolulu?

JM: Into Hawaii, right.

DM: Yeah.

JM: Honolulu.

DM: So you get all ready and what happens next?

JM: Well, you know I can't visualize anything that transpired, except I can visualize standing on the quarterdeck.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And we saw a Japanese plane. You know, you saw the meatball. And it was—I can't remember any noises, whether they strafed us or not. I think they did.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: They sounded general quarters. Well then, when they sounded general quarters, I can tell you that I can visualize going up to the boat deck.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I did something that to this day, I can still say that was ridiculous.

DM: What's that?

JM: I took off my neckerchief and folded it and put it on the ammunition hoist. And what I mean is you take it off...

DM: Right.

JM: ...and you fold it in half.

DM: Right.

JM: Just like you're going to—instead of putting it in your locker, I laid it on the ammunition hoist.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I can remember, you know, when [*Worth Ross*] Lightfoot [*GM3/c*] was on the—he was rammer man on that five-inch—and he told me that, "Mack,"—'cause you know they didn't say Jack. We didn't call each other by first names.

DM: Right.

JM: That the safety link was out. And I could tell you another story too, that there was only three of us. And Robbie Foster was on the—he was the pointer.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I guess that someone had trained his gun out. And I didn't know who was the pointer until at the fiftieth anniversary, and I met Robbie Foster, and I asked him —'cause he was with [*Donald Gay*] "Don" Stratton [*S1/c*].

DM: Right.

JM: And I said, "Where were you?" you know.

And he looked at me, and he says, "You were my gun captain."

He was...

DM: He was right there.

JM: And I didn't know that until fifty years later.

DM: Now, let me make this clear so I understand. The gun that you were manning when the raid starts, that was not a casemated gun, or was it?

JM: No.

DM: You were up on the boat deck.

JM: Right.

DM: And that was gun number...

JM: Seven.

DM: Gun number seven. And now you're starting to get the gun in action.

JM: Yeah.

DM: What were you aiming at?

JM: (Chuckles)

DM: Were you _____?

JM: I'll tell you the truth. You know, I know that I took out three rounds out of the ammunition locker and put 'em in the fuse box.

DM: Right.

JM: I can't tell you what was said on there, but I'm pretty sure—I know that I cranked it in.

DM: Okay.

JM: And it was probably set at 2.3 seconds, you know.

DM: Which means?

JM: The lowest setting.

DM: Right.

JM: And I can't tell you if we got a round out, but if we did, it fell over on Ford Island, you know. There wasn't...

DM: Had you elevated the gun up to fire at the planes above you or...

JM: I don't know. I can't—I know that the gun was elevated.

DM: Okay.

JM: You know, visualizing.

DM: Right.

JM: And then I remember there was—well, we must've taken at least one or two bomb hits besides the one that sunk us, you know.

DM: Yeah. Prior to that, is there a lot...

JM: I can recall seeing a blast of, you know, of—that's in my mind's eye.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I was blown off the ship. Or I'd like to think that if one of god's angels picked me up. I can remember being on the mount and the next thing I knew, I was in the water. And I can recall, even to now, just look down to see...ah! You know, see if I was all there. And there was an officer alongside, it was right at the quay.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I said, "You go."

And he says, "You go and you go."

And of course he was an officer. I wanted him to go up first. I can remember that.

DM: Go up on the quay?

JM: Yeah, to get out of the water.

DM: Right.

JM: And the next thing I recall is being in a motor launch. And the motor launch was strafed and—'cause I can still see the—and the next thing I knew, I was on Ford Island. And the next thing I can recall is that, in a dispensary and them cutting my jumper off. And they took my wedding ring and put it in my pants pocket.

DM: Okay, we're going to stop right here and change tape.

END OF TAPE #37

TAPE #38

JM: ...you know, the mounts were manned. I can't say that—there was only three of us on our mount. But I've heard that, you know, there was more on the other mounts and they got off rounds and I don't know. It wasn't controlled fire, but they were firing.

DM: Right. How many men normally would be at that gun mount, to operate that gun?

JM: About eight.

DM: Eight and you had three.

JM: Right.

DM: And for one reason or the other, those men, wherever they were, trying to get to their station, didn't get there.

JM: Right.

DM: The raid started 7:55. The ship lived for about eleven, twelve minutes. You probably—time just froze, I suspect, during that whole...

JM: Well, I can remember what happened in that time frame, but that's, you know, what time what it was—you know what I mean.

DM: Do you remember any of the announcements at all, that were coming over the PA when the raid started?

JM: Well, I know, "General quarters, general quarters! This is no drill!"

And that's all I can recall there.

DM: So you went from the quarterdeck, you were with that detail, a shore patrolman.

JM: Right.

DM: Which, how—consisted of how many people, do you remember?

JM: I guess there was around twelve of us, yeah.

DM: And you vaguely remember some strafing possibly coming across the deck?

JM: Yeah.

DM: General quarters is sounded. You go up the ladder to the boat deck and get to your gun?

JM: Right.

DM: You and three men are now trying to operate that gun and fire it back. You can't recall if you got any rounds off, but you think you did.

JM: I can't say, really, truthfully.

DM: That's fine. And all around you, you know that there are other gun crews and they apparently are firing back.

JM: Right. They were firing. I don't know if...

DM: Now, those guns are really loud, as I understand. Did you hear that gunfire going off?

JM: (Chuckles) I can't say, truthfully, that I heard it.

DM: Did you remember planes dropping torpedoes and...

JM: I can remember it, seeing two planes going by, you know.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: But I can't see—I wasn't in a position to see the torpedo planes coming in.

DM: Because you were on the starboard side.

JM: Right, yeah.

DM: So you see the planes flying over. Did you know at that time who these guys were, where they came from?

JM: I probably knew when I saw that, yeah, but it didn't register as anything. You know, it's like a Sunday punch. You know what I mean?

DM: Right.

JM: If somebody come up and you just saw 'em for a fraction of a second and they knocked you out, what did he look like?

DM: Right.

JM: I don't know. (Chuckles)

DM: Right. But would it be fair, Jack, to say that you knew these were Japanese?

JM: Yes. Yeah. Right. Sure. Right.

DM: And a lot of the survivors had said in those initial moments it was like unbelievable this was happening.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Would that be fair to say in your circumstance, that it was a...

JM: Well, you're doing things. It isn't the fact that it's believable or unbelievable, you know what I mean.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: You can't say that, "Shee, I knew this was going to happen." You can't say that.

DM: Right.

JM: At least I didn't. I was just doing what was necessary at that time.

DM: Right. And you were fighting to save your ship.

JM: Yeah. We were fighting because some one was trying to... sure. Very definitely, yeah.

DM: Now, you, in your recollection, you said previously that you heard, you felt that the ship had taken a couple of hits.

JM: Right.

DM: And then suddenly there was a tremendous explosion.

JM: Yeah. I can't—see, I can't...that to me didn't register or anything. It really.

DM: But what did register is the next thing you knew, you were off the gun...

JM: I was off the platform and I was in the water, really. That's the extent of what I can remember.

DM: My knowledge of the ship means that you flew out on the water about forty to fifty feet.

JM: You mean from where I was to...

DM: Where you were down to the water line was probably around forty to fifty feet.

JM: I see. _____ forty feet.

DM: So you land in the water...

JM: I don't remember landing in the water.

DM: You find yourself in the water.

JM: I was underwater. I can still, to this day, I can see, looking down, like this, for some ridiculous thing, you know.

DM: You were under the water and you looked at your legs just to make sure you were all together, right?

JM: Yeah. The thought passed, am I whole? You know.

DM: And then you came to the surface.

JM: Okay.

DM: There was another man beside you.

JM: Yeah, there was an officer. I don't know if he was lieutenant or a [*lieutenant*] JG.

DM: Right.

JM: I don't even know, to this day, who it was.

DM: And there was the mooring quay.

JM: Right.

DM: And that was the forward mooring quay, not the aft one?

JM: Well, it was forward of the quarterdeck, I'll say that, but I don't...

DM: Okay, then that was the forward one. I can tell you that it was forward.

JM: Okay.

DM: And you told him to get up on the quay and you'd come, but the next thing you knew...

JM: Yeah, I don't remember getting up on the quay.

DM: You were in a whaleboat.

JM: The next thing I knew I was in the motor launch.

DM: Right.

JM: It was just on the other side of the quay and down from the quarterdeck, you know.

DM: Uh-huh. And then the motor launch got strafed, as you remember it.

JM: Right.

DM: Then where did you go from there?

JM: Ford Island.

DM: And do you remember getting out of the boat or is that vague too?

JM: I can't remember it, but I remember walking up on out of the water.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I can tell you that there was another man that was burned so horribly, that I can still see him with no clothes and bleeding. Quite a horrible experience, you know.

DM: Now, were the men like—individuals wounded like that one, were they being helped up to Ford Island?

JM: I don't know. I can't remember going from there, right from the waterfront. The next thing I knew is the dispensary on Ford Island. Truthfully, I can't—my mind's eye...

DM: That's okay.

JM: ...what transpired between there and the dispensary. And then from the dispensary, I can still see them, the men, they told us to get out of there, 'cause I think they dropped a dud on the dispensary. Did you know that?

DM: Yes.

JM: That landed right in the center.

DM: It wasn't a dud.

JM: It wasn't a dud?

DM: It went off.

JM: Huh? Is that right?

DM: It went off. It blew up.

JM: But they had just moved a lot of men from that section.

DM: Yeah, fortunately no one was killed, but the bomb went into the courtyard and exploded.

JM: Yeah, yeah.

DM: Yeah, I have pictures of it.

JM: Well, I was there then. But I didn't think it went off.

DM: It went off.

JM: Really?

DM: Yes.

JM: See...

DM: That's okay.

JM: The next thing I knew, I was in this building and I can still see the men jumping over the big pipe that was...

DM: Right, the dredge pipe.

JM: Yeah.

DM: Can I ask you something?

JM: Sure.

DM: Did you ever look back at the *Arizona* and see what had happened to her?

JM: At that time?

DM: Yeah.

JM: I don't recall.

DM: If you did, you don't recall seeing her afire...

JM: No.

DM: ...and going down?

JM: No. I don't recall anything of that extent, no. I can't—my mind's eye doesn't...

DM: That's all right.

JM: ...register anything.

DM: Would it be safe to say, Jack, that once that explosion occurred, it was little snippets that you remember, little things that happened, but not in a continuous...

JM: I told you the snippets that I did recall.

DM: Right.

JM: That's all I can—you know

DM: Did that continue throughout the day, or did you finally have...

JM: Well, when I was over in the building, I can remember Lieutenant [*Gordon Patea*] Chung- Hoon was there—later made [*rear*] admiral?

DM: Right.

JM: He was gunnery. And we were all sitting alongside a bulkhead, you know.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I can remember him asking, "Any *Arizona* sailors?"

And that's the last thing I remember. The next thing I knew, I was in Base 8 Hospital, up in Aiea.

DM: Okay.

JM: And of course, I was bandaged and they were feeding me through a tube.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And if anyone did any praying, you can imagine, you know. And I can remember, it must have been two or three days later, I took off all the bandage one night. I can remember vaguely doing, and the doctor didn't know it was me in the bed, that next morning, you know when they come around to check. And I can remember him sitting down and he said, "Son, if any miracles come out of this war, you're one!"

And I believe that to this day. _____.

DM: Jack, you didn't mention that you had been injured. How were you injured?

JM: Well, I had second, third degree burns on my hands and my face. And I wished I had saved the—you know, when I got down out of Aiea hospital, went down to the YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association], which they, you know...

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: ...they took a picture.

DM: Right.

JM: And I wish I had saved it because, you know, I used to have black, wavy hair and at that time, it was hardly any 'cause it was burnt, you know.

DM: Your hair had been burned?

JM: Yeah. And the last, around my lips were the last to heal. And it's hard to believe now, right?

DM: Right.

JM: Yeah. I wasn't burned as bad as [*Donald Gay*] "Don" Stratton [*S1/c*], you know. They didn't have to do any—no third degree burns, but. And then, when I left the hospital, I went down to the—I can remember. I guess I can say this, but things, you couldn't imagine how things were, at that time.

DM: Yes.

JM: I had a pair of shoes, hospital pajamas, a dungaree shirt and dungaree pants. And that's all that I owned.

DM: Right, 'cause everything...

JM: Everything else was lost, you know. And when I got down there, they said, "Do you want to go aboard ship or do you want to go to the hospital?"

I said, "I want to go aboard ship," 'cause I thought that once I went aboard ship, that I'd go to the sickbay, you know.

DM: Right.

JM: Instead of going to the hospital.

DM: We're going to stop for a moment, so that we can take care of this.

(Taping stops, then resumes)

JM: You know.

DM: Okay.

JM: That you can...

DM: I'm sorry. I'm going to start over again. We didn't have...

JM: You didn't. (Laughs) Do you want that part anyway?

DM: Very much so. I'm sorry. Let me just prefix. You know, over these years, interviewing Pearl Harbor survivors, especially the crew of the *Arizona*, which has been very much part of my life.

JM: Oh.

DM: Working at the memorial.

JM: Sure.

DM: And knowing how special you guys are and being friends, especially with Don Stratton.

JM: Evidently with—I didn't know Don. What I mean is, I guess I knew him.

DM: Yeah. But I...

JM: He didn't work for me.

DM: Right.

JM: And, well I met him afterwards of course, you know.

DM: Right.

JM: But at that time, it wasn't, he wasn't a gunner's mate.

DM: Right.

JM: You know.

DM: He wasn't in your world.

JM: He wasn't in my world, yeah.

DM: But he was aboard your ship.

JM: Sure, yeah.

DM: And I became friends with Don [*Stratton*] and that friendship increased in 1991, and so I...

JM: Wonderful.

DM: ...you know, through Don [*Stratton*], I went through what has been very difficult for him. And he suffered some terrible injuries as well.

JM: Sure.

DM: And so the *Arizona* suffered the greatest loss of life of any ship in modern American naval history. And so when you guys tell your stories, they're very, very hard stories because you lost your ship and you lost your friends. And in a sense, part of you died that day.

JM: Yeah. Yeah.

DM: So...

JM: It's like you lose, if you can imagine, you're being brought up in a home. You know, and the house burns down. And your brothers and sisters, or your family has died in the fire, or destruction of the home. You can imagine how you'd—if that happened to somebody, you'd have the same feeling.

DM: And that's the feeling you have about the *Arizona*.

JM: Sure, because it was, you know, you don't live in the ship for three years and have done everything that you could do. Over three years I was on there, four years. And probably one of the happiest I can recall is I loved being a helmsman. You know, gunner's mate strikers were helmsman.

DM: Right.

JM: And I can still visualize in my mind—that's why I'm so thankful to Bob, I mean to Paul Stilwell, 'cause he brought back that memory that I really enjoyed being a helmsman. Especially at midnight, you know, the mid-watch.

DM: Right.

JM: And it's quiet. And you've got the wheel and you're helmsman. You've got to keep within two-tenths of a degree of the...

DM: Right.

JM: ...you know. And there's been times I can truthfully say, and in all sincerity, that you feel like the ship and you, you're one. You've got—you know what I mean? You're part of it. You're a helmsman and it's on course, and you see the—I can remember around Lahaina Roads and on a moonlight night and the calm sea, and it's a feeling that no one else can have unless you, can experience unless you do it yourself.

DM: And basically you, in your hands, was the *Arizona*. You were steering the ship.

JM: Yeah. But I mean, it's like you and the ship are one. It's not like you're steering the ship or she's—it's just like you and the ocean and everything else, you're one, you know. I'm not religious, but I am spiritual. I'll say that, you know.

DM: That's a long way for a kid from Boston to go.

JM: Yeah.

DM: The obvious question is your wife must have been terribly worried.

JM: Yeah. I never realized how important a navy wife was until after I retired.

DM: Why is that?

JM: You know. 'Cause you—well, you know, let's see, we figured out we had less than ninety days together the first five years we were married. And she never found out that I was hurt at Pearl until the day before Christmas. She got a telegram—we still got—"We regret to inform you that your husband," so-and-so, "John McCarron, has been wounded," or something. The notification of my marriage hadn't got back to Washington and, you know, in time and my mother was notified first and she didn't know whether to notify Roberta or not, but.

DM: Did she?

JM: I guess about the same time that she got, my wife got the telegram, so you can imagine what she...

DM: Went through.

JM: ...went through, yeah.

DM: 'Cause she didn't know if you were alive or dead.

JM: That's right.

DM: But she was aware of Pearl Harbor.

JM: Oh, very definitely. Yeah.

DM: And they were aware that the *Arizona* had gone down. That became public knowledge.

JM: I'm sure, yeah.

DM: Did you ever talk to her about those times at all? The waiting.

JM: I don't think we've talked about that, really. Honestly, to tell you the honest truth. You know, like I said, she was with me when Paul interviewed me.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And she never...she never knew anything 'til then.

DM: Because you didn't talk about it.

JM: No, that's right. You don't. You just, you don't talk about things like that, I guess.

DM: Is—for some survivors that I've interviewed, the road to recovery has been the ability to talk to other shipmates about...

JM: Yeah.

DM: And to talk in interviews like this.

JM: Like I got a good—Jim Bownes is off the *Oklahoma*.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I even was on the—we were together in the fifties for five years and he was off the *Oklahoma* and I was off the *Arizona*, and we never knew this. We were shipmates for three years. We were both warrant officers. We just, you just didn't talk about things like that, you know. He was in, Jim was one of the—they recovered when the ship, *Oklahoma*, capsized?

DM: He was one of the thirty-two rescued.

JM: Yeah.

DM: A near thing for him.

JM: Yes and Jim can't talk about it. And we could, you know. He couldn't say.

DM: So here you were, two Pearl Harbor survivors...

JM: Mm-hm.

DM: ...that shared the experience of Pearl Harbor but never talked about it. You were like two ships passing in the night. Friends, but the past...

JM: Yeah.

DM: ...was not something you could talk about?

JM: We just didn't, you know. You didn't talk about Pearl Harbor. When they talk about it, even during the war, but you didn't talk about if it was traumatic happening, you know.

DM: Have you talked...

JM: I don't think we talk about the war, you know.

DM: Yeah.

JM: We considered ourselves professional sailors.

DM: Have you talked since?

JM: Huh?

DM: Have you talked since?

JM: I've talked to two groups on the USS *Pearl Harbor* [*LSD-52*].

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I told 'em just about what you said, but I more or less was extemporaneous, you know, and I told 'em my feelings of what I think a sailor should be like, or if he wanted to—I try to inform them that if they wanted to—for all the men that died, that their spirit, they could help 'em. You know what I mean?

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I've talked to them, yeah.

DM: They could help 'em in what way, Jack?

JM: Well, not that it would help them, but it would be for, pay tribute to those that have died, you know, for them to be the best sailor that they could be. That I thought that, you know, if they would keep that in their memory, that those men will never die, you know.

DM: Live on.

JM: Live on. And help them be a better sailor and you know.

DM: Have you gone back to the memorial?

JM: Yeah. I went back just when I met you.

DM: Right.

JM: You know, and...

DM: Was that your first time?

JM: Oh no, no.

DM: What was your first time like? That must have been very difficult for you.

JM: You know, when I was stationed in Hawaii for three years, from '63 to '66.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: And I uncovered the bell when she came back there.

DM: You did?

JM: Yeah, but strangely enough, you know I can say that I went aboard ship, but it was like somebody else. It's difficult to explain.

DM: Are you saying that when you went aboard the memorial...

JM: Yeah.

DM: ...and looked down at the ship, it really...

JM: I was aware, but yeah, it didn't...it's like you're visiting a graveyard, I guess, or you know what I mean. Visiting your

family that's buried. And it's solemn and you don't have a memory, you just have a sadness. I think that's what engulfs you, is the sadness.

DM: So the vibrant ship that you walked aboard in San Pedro, was all of that life, now became a tomb.

JM: Right.

DM: So that's how, when you look down there, you saw it as that. So it had kind of—I don't want to put words in your mouth.

JM: Well, I say a prayer when I went on, say a prayer for all of them, you know. And I think that—and I thank them for being with me throughout my career.

DM: You mean, as you went on through the navy, they were always with you?

JM: That's right. Yeah. I felt that. I felt that, you know, I could be the best sailor I could be and they helped me.

DM: Is it difficult for you to walk in that room that has all of their names up there?

JM: No. I wouldn't say it's difficult. It's like when I went on the *Ari[zona]*, you know, I knelt and said a prayer.

DM: I remember that.

JM: Yeah.

DM: That wall of Vermont marble that has their names...

JM: Yeah, of course two stand out that were really close that died, you know. That's Lightfoot, Worth Ross Lightfoot. He was full-blooded Cherokee. And [*Wilson Woodrow*] Hilton

was a first-class gunner's mate. We made quite a few liberties together and shared a locker in Long Beach. Wonderful man. I mean...good man.

DM: So the wall is living?

JM: Oh, they're all living, yeah. I don't think that—well, like I said, I'm not religious, but I'm spiritual. But I think we live on as a spirit, if we're the right—I believe there's two kinds of people, good people and bad people. I don't hate anybody, I can truthfully say.

DM: Even the Japanese for what they did?

JM: No, of course, I don't hate them. That's ridiculous. I think governments make huge mistakes. We made mistakes. I think that they—of course, they shouldn't have done what they did, that's ridiculous, as a government. But I don't know what we did to—I don't know if we provoked it or not. I would hope not. I think that it was just in the course of history. But I think that if we don't learn about history, we're going to make the same mistakes. Like today, depleting the—you know, we're supposed to be strong and I wonder how strong we are.

DM: The *Arizona* Memorial sees about...

JM: We talk too much...

(Taping stops, then resumes)

DM: Yeah, that's what I want to talk about, because you know, we—okay. When you go to the USS *Arizona* Memorial, Jack, and—which was dedicated in 1962, Memorial Day. What do you think of its design and how it looks? Is it worthy?

JM: I believe so. Yes. Yes, yeah.

DM: What do you think of the lines itself?

JM: I think it's quite wonderful, to me, that.

DM: Alfred Preiss, the architect, said he wanted that design to be one that brought about peacefulness and serenity. And you being a spiritual man, do you feel that spirit when you go on the memorial?

JM: Hmm. Do I? I feel a reverence, you know, it's a mixed blessing, I think. You know what I mean? I feel this, but I feel the reverence and the sadness. I think the prayer helps.

DM: You know, as the generations become more and more removed from the event that changed your life...

JM: Right.

DM: ...the visitors that come there get more and more detached from that. There's been some criticism that there's not enough reference...

JM: To what?

DM: On the memorial. That the [*National*] Park Service should work harder in bringing about that reverence. Some groups have asked that we forcefully ask people to remove their hats. That they should maintain absolute silence on the memorial.

JM: Well, I think they do, don't they?

DM: Some do, but we have cultural groups, like Chinese visitors and others, that are somewhat boisterous.

JM: Oh really?

DM: Yeah. And I'm just wondering what's your feeling on that? How do you think we should approach that problem?

JM: That's a difficult situation, but I—for someone in your position, responsibility there, to—how would you correct something like that, if they were boisterous or too noisy or not showing enough reverence? I know every place that I've been, it's just like if you go to a—even to Japan. I've seen their cemeteries and I believe in a person being reverent to the dead, you know. I don't know what, who these individuals are that would go aboard ship and be critical.

DM: They're not so much critical as that some of the survivors have criticized the Park Service...

JM: The survivors have criticized?

DM: Yeah, some of them have and their criticism may very well be justified. I'm just wondering as a former *Arizona* crew member and one that has this as part of their life, if we should work harder to educate people or is this problem, how can it be resolved and do you see that as a problem that really needs to be resolved?

JM: I would think that it would, if it was a real problem, that it should be resolved. If too much—if there wasn't the due respect paid to the memorial, I think you could bring—I think I read somewhere that right now it's a memorial, but it's a monument to all military that died.

DM: That's correct.

JM: Which would be, that idea should be amplified or...

DM: Reinforced.

JM: ...reinforced and that because, you know, I think that's the way, if I can speak for the dead on the *Arizona*, I know that they would want it. I don't know how you do it. I mean I'd like to offer, you know, my opinion of a solution, without being, and being diplomatic.

DM: Right.

JM: You know, that please remove your hats and or if you go into the, you know, where the plaque is.

DM: Yeah, and it's not—I've seen it as not a large problem, but maybe what you're saying is something that probably needs to be heard by the people that work there. Maybe your words will help guide them as to what their responsibilities maybe are.

JM: Well, I don't think that they work there. I don't think you would allow anyone being boisterous and horsing around and being irreverent, should I say.

DM: Right.

JM: Without diplomatically saying, you know, this is a tomb. It's a memorial to all the military that died in the wars, or in our war.

DM: Pearl Harbor.

JM: At Pearl Harbor. Not only for Pearl Harbor, but you know, to all the sailors that were lost at sea. And I would think that—I don't know what kind of a person they would be that if they didn't pay attention to that remark, that would, you know, continue to be, I should say, boisterous or out of line.

DM: We're going to stop here. You're going to change tape now?

END OF TAPE #38

TAPE #39

DM: Jack, one of the things that has come up with the USS *Arizona* is the loss of that ship was a dreadful thing and when that ship went down, it became a symbol. It became a symbol of sacrifice. It was almost like an icon, the pictures. You remember the pictures of the slumped mast and all of that. Was it difficult to accept, that Pearl Harbor is remembered to the iconic views and pictures and drawings of the *Arizona*?

JM: Yeah, I don't think I can visualize it that way.

DM: Right.

JM: To be truthful, to me.

DM: How do you visualize the *Arizona*, when you think of her?

JM: By the big picture I got in my den. At sea steaming.

DM: Alive.

JM: Yeah. I think she'll always be, to me, she'll be alive. I mean I realize, you know, that now she's a memorial, but...

DM: In your mind...

JM: In my mind, she lives.

DM: The Pearl Harbor Survivors, when did you join as a member?

JM: I guess when I first heard about it, in '70, I think.

DM: So you joined 'em kind of early on?

JM: Yeah.

DM: What did you hope...

JM: I don't know how or why or what, something came up I guess.

DM: What did you hope to achieve by becoming a Pearl Harbor Survivor?

JM: Nothing, to tell you the truth.

DM: But did you seek comradeship with fellow survivors? Was that it?

JM: I can't say that.

DM: You just joined?

JM: Yeah, I guess my wife says I'm a joiner, you know.
(Chuckles)

DM: And the *Arizona* Reunion Association, of which you are...

JM: Yeah.

DM: What does that organization mean to you?

JM: Men that have served on the *Arizona*, and I knew what it meant to them. And I think it means to them what it means to me because the ones that I met, most of 'em weren't out there at Pearl at that time. But they were *Arizona* sailors, you know. And I knew what—I don't know if it was their first ship, but they love her as much as I do. Yeah.

DM: You like to talk about the good times?

JM: Well, I, yeah.

DM: What's your favorite memory of the ship?

JM: Being a helmsman. (Laughs)

DM: The helmsman story is your favorite memory.

JM: Sure. And well, also when we'd buy, you know, get a quart of ice cream.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: At the gedunk stand and be up on the boat deck and tell sea stories. You know, we each knew where we were coming from and how we joined the navy and most of us probably came from fractured homes, you know what I mean.

DM: Right.

JM: And we were close, you know, especially the gunner's mate group, yeah.

DM: Now, how old were you when the *Arizona* went down?

JM: Twenty-two.

DM: So you were a little bit older than some of the guys on that ship.

JM: Well...

DM: A little more experienced.

JM: A little more experienced and older than—yeah, than the seamen, you know.

DM: Right. I can almost picture you on the deck there with ice cream, almost still kids.

JM: Yeah. Yeah. Well, we used to—another thing we did was I can remember in the casemates, you know, the projectiles were fifty-five pounds.

DM: Right.

JM: And we used to lay down on the deck and with a projectile in each hand and, you know, use 'em as weights. (Laughs) And I couldn't—I don't think I can lift five pounds today. (Laughs)

DM: But you guys could lift those things?

JM: Oh yeah. Yeah. Could, I could. Yeah. (Inaudible)

DM: Incredible.

JM: Yeah. But we were in good shape. Yeah.

DM: Yeah. The legacy of the Pearl Harbor Survivors, as survivors, not as the organization, is projected in many ways. What do you see as the legacy of you men and women that survived the attack?

JM: I think we're dinosaurs. (Chuckles)

DM: But how would you guys like to be remembered?

JM: How would we like to be remembered?

DM: Yeah.

JM: As United States sailors, United States Navy sailors. As that loved the navy and loved their country. Yeah. I don't know what else you can...

DM: Say.

JM: ...you know. Ollie Brooks said the greatest thing, well, like rate or rank, _____ you could have is being a sailor, a navy sailor. And I consider myself a navy sailor, not a chief warrant gunner, but truthfully in my heart, a navy sailor, you know. I still love the navy.

DM: Well, I'd like to thank you for this interview. I know it was not easy for you to talk about it.

JM: This part wasn't bad. That's no—and what, you know.

DM: But it's still difficult.

JM: The thing is I can't remember, there are parts of me that I can't remember more, but I was, you know, out of it for three days.

DM: Right.

JM: Even when I was aboard the ship, you know, when I went aboard ship, I couldn't even get—I slept—I had to lean over a bunk to sleep for about two months. You know, I was—but that's neither here nor there, right. My pleasure.

DM: Well, I suppose so, but even those years when you went back aboard ship and you served in the navy for how long?

JM: Thirty-two years.

DM: So you were already in the navy three years with the *Arizona*. Is that correct?

JM: Four years.

DM: Four years.

JM: Yeah.

DM: And you went on twenty-eight more years.

JM: Yeah.

DM: And even when you went back to ship...

JM: Hmm?

DM: ...you had a little bit of difficulty.

JM: It wasn't difficulty, it's a feeling that you can't put into words, you know, really. You can't put into words. It's the words are just not there. It's—you mean how you feel, you know.

DM: Yeah, going back to sea.

JM: To sea?

DM: Yeah.

JM: You mean to go to see the *Arizona*?

DM: No, going back to sea, going back to be a sailor again.

JM: Oh. When I was a sailor?

DM: Yeah.

JM: You mean going back to be a gunner's mate?

DM: Right, after the attack and...

JM: Well, I was a good sailor. I was a good gunner's mate.

DM: Right.

JM: I probably wasn't with the program as well as I should be, but I, yeah.

DM: You eventually pulled out of that.

JM: I think so. I'm here, you know. I think that like Paul, I was probably shell-shocked. I still think I was shell-shocked all during the war, to tell you the honest truth. You know, I was there but I was in sad shape for quite a while. Not mentally, but you know, 'cause I even had gunner's mates that were, that I had one that went crazy on me, you know, that had been there.

DM: Uh-huh.

JM: I can't even remember his name. But he got word that his brother was killed on Guadalcanal and I remember he, I don't know, he went off his rocker. We had to transfer him to shore.

DM: Different type of war...

JM: He got administrative discharge out of the navy. Yeah.

DM: A different type of war casualty.

JM: Yes. Yeah. And imagine there's more than one. Yeah.

DM: Well, thank you very much.

JM: Oh, my pleasure Dan _____ Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW